

A GOAL 14 minutes from the end by substitute Tony Horseman saved Wycombe Wanderers' four match unbeaten record in the Isthmian League at Kingstonian on Tuesday night.

It was only seven days ago that Wanderers sent Kingstonian away from Loakes Park smarting from a 3-0 thrashing that could have been far more severe. But it was a different story at Richmond Road.

Once Kingstonian had taken a 57th minute lead through Peter Caines they raised their game considerably and it was an error from goalkeeper Barry Knife that let in Horseman for a share of the points.

Before that, however, Wanderers had once again looked far superior to the opposition. Short on skill, Kingstonian relied on work rate and hard running to throw Wycombe out of their stride, hopefully pumping long balls down the middle for the front men to chase.

Compared with the Blues' build-ups, it was crude stuff. But the best approach work in the world is utterly useless if chances are not taken. And that was the case on Tuesday. Wanderers had at least five good chances to score but missed the lot.

Wanderers manager John Reardon blamed himself for dropping two points. He felt he should have played Horseman from the start and made Farouk Quraishi substitute. Mr Reardon gambled by bringing in Derek Harris, his new signing, at Horseman's expense but no-one would need to take any blame

Kingstonian 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1

REPORT BY STUART EARP

had Wycombe accepted their chances.

Harris, in his first full match of the season, did a good job. His control and speed up front will be extremely valuable.

DISAPPOINTING

Overall, however, the team performance was disappointing purely because Wanderers had much more of the game but failed to make their advantage tell. A corner ratio of 13-2 to Wycombe is a good reflection of the run of play.

Roger Day went close after 16 minutes but a quick breakaway almost saw Kingstonian take the lead when Rowbottom thumped in a shot that Spittle did well to parry.

The home goalkeeper, Barry Knife, was looking none too happy at the other end, however. He almost punched Day's long cross into his own net but then tipped Harris's flashing header over the crossbar for another corner. Play became scrappy towards the end of the half but another chance fell by the wayside when Harris swopped

passes with Evans but drilled his shot into the side netting.

PRICE PAID

Wanderers paid the price for their inaccuracy in the 57th minute. Keith Mead gave away a free kick five yards inside his own half and Caines somehow outjumped the big men at the back to head past Spittle who was in two minds whether to come for the ball.

Manager Reardon brought on the veteran Horseman in the 64th minute and it was 'Bodger' who eventually rescued a point. Before that, however, Caines should have put the home side further ahead when a slip by Birdseye gave him a clear shot at goal but he drove straight at Spittle.

Cockahoop after scoring, Kingstonian made life doubly difficult for Wanderers to break back and defeat was looming until Horseman struck in the 76th minute. He beat a defender just inside the box but his shot looked to be easy for Knife. To his horror, however, the 'keeper could only half stop the ball which rolled over the line.

Despite forcing three more corners, Wycombe rarely looked like snatching a victory out of the fire. There were too many mistakes in the last quarter and several attacks broke down at the feet of Dylan Evans.

At the final whistle, Wanderers were rueing their earlier chances which must be taken if they are to maintain their place among the top clubs.

KINGSTONIAN: B. Knife; M. Sorenson, D. Dyer, M. Stratford, D. Cooper; S. Esslemont, B. Webb, P. Smith; P. Caines, L. Wallis, A. Rowbottom. Sub J. Martin (not used).

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies; G. Mackenzie, R. Day, F. Quraishi (sub A. Horseman 64 mins); D. Evans, D. Harris, M. Holifield.

Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Kingstonian — Caines (57), Wycombe — Horseman (76).

Referee: J. Barker (Brentwood).

Stiffest test

WYCOMBE Wanderers, with four wins and a draw from their last five games, face their stiffest test for some time tomorrow (Saturday) when they travel to Hitchin in the Isthmian League Premier Division.

Both clubs have amassed 23 points this season and although Wycombe head tomorrow's opponents on goal difference, Hitchin have a game in hand. The Blues missed out on the chance to go second on Tuesday night when they were held 1-1 at Kingstonian.

For the visit to Topfield, manager John Reardon must be tempted to field the side that finished the match at Kingstonian. This would mean Mick Holifield dropping back into midfield at the expense of Farouk Quraishi.

Hitchin, who have recorded some impressive results this season, are missing two players through injury — Steve Gear and Kevin Hammond. Their top scorer is a former Chalfont St Peter youngster, Terry Scott who has six goals to his credit.

Scott, only 18, scored two of Hitchin's three in their 3-2 win over Tilbury on Tuesday night.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

(Up to and inc 27/9/77)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	11	8	2	1	22	8	26
Tooting	11	8	0	3	17	9	24
Wycombe	12	7	2	3	20	12	23
Hitchin	11	7	2	2	17	10	23
Staines	11	6	4	1	16	11	22
Sutton	10	6	2	2	13	7	20
Barking	10	6	1	3	18	11	19
Dagenham	12	6	1	5	21	20	19
Leatherhead	10	5	3	2	16	8	18
Carshalton	9	5	2	2	19	10	17
Hendon	12	4	4	4	18	14	16
Boreham W	10	5	0	5	16	19	15
Hayes	9	3	3	3	6	7	12
Walthamstow	9	3	3	3	9	13	12
Croydon	10	3	1	6	11	14	10
Kingstonian	11	2	4	5	13	17	10
Southall	11	2	3	6	13	18	9
Tilbury	10	2	3	5	14	20	9
Slough	8	1	2	5	9	15	5
Leytonstone	9	1	2	6	7	16	5
Woking	10	1	1	8	7	19	4
Sturford	12	0	1	11	12	35	1

Tuesday, 27th September, 1977

Isthmian League Premier Division

1st XI drew with Wycombe Wanderers (home) 1—1; (H-T: 0—0)

Kingstonian: Knife, Sorensen, Dyer, Wallis, Cooper, Stratford, Rowbottom, Smith, Caines, Esslemont, Webb (sub: Martin — not used)

Wycombe Wanderers: Spittle, Birdseye, Davies, Mead, Phillips, Day, Quaraishi (Horseman, 64 mins.), Holifield, Evans, Mackenzie, Harris

Scorers: Kingstonian: Caines (59 mins.)

Wycombe Wanderers: Horseman (77 mins.)

Referee: Mr. J. Barker (Brentwood)